

7 Dec 81

Dear Mom & Dad,

I was very pleased to get your letter and the 1982 calendar this evening. I am on the Himitz now having ridden the helicopter on Saturday with the rest of the staff. We arrive in Haifa on Thursday and leave Monday morning for Naples. Vickie isn't flying over because we just got back from France, the visit is short, and the plane ride expensive. We will be back to Israel in the Spring and she will see the country then.

I have been looking at, "Israel on \$20 a Day" and it looks as if Jerusalem is the most interesting city. Things close down in Israel from Friday afternoon through ~~Thursday~~<sup>Saturday</sup>, so perhaps I'll visit Jerusalem on Sunday. Bethlehem appears to be a tourist trap. I'm particularly looking

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forward to some Middle Eastern food which I'm sure Dad would enjoy as well!

Tonight we are passing <sup>the</sup> South of Crete after keeping a close lookout for the Libyans. In fact, we stay so far away they very likely don't know where we are.

Vickie picked out a little present for Diane which I gave my approval to. She mailed it last week.

We decided not to try to visit Sicily over Christmas - it's too far. When I get to Naples I'll drive up to Rome and meet Vickie and stay there until Dec 25. The Rome 1/2 Marathon is that day and I hope to run. Then I must return to Naples until we leave for Wash D.C. from Rome via New York on 30 Dec - a big day for Dad. Happy birthday, we love you and think about you both all the time! Love,  
Jim